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WHOSE FAULT DO YOU THINK THAT IS!?
DON'T BE SCREAMING INTO MY EARS SO EARLY IN THE MORNING
LULU~
MY EARS ARE RINGING AGAIN...
breakfast
blueberry

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.....
GO GET READY IF YOU UNDERSTAND.
AS IF I COULD LEAVE SOMEONE WHO NEEDS TAKING CARE OF LIKE YOU ALONE
WHA!?
puzzle
puzzle
SHEESH ...
WHERE DID YOU YOU THINK I WAS GOING TO GO..?

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GRR
SENSEI ISN'T HERE AGAIN!
ART ROOM
EVEN THOUGH HE TOLD ME THAT HE'D AT LEAST SHOW HIMSELF DURING THE FIRST DAY OF THE NEW SEMESTER---!
I WISH HE WOULDN'T MAKE SUCH A HABIT OUT OF THIS...
YUP, YUP!
IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE CLUB ACTIVITIES UNLESS IT'S LIKE THIS AFTER ALL!
ah ha ha
Sigh
I'M SORRY SENSEI
DON'T WANNA GO TO SCHOOL AS SUCH
HE TOLD ME HE'D BE SURE TO SHOW UP THIS TIME THOUGH
THAT'S WEIRD
NOW NOW PRESI-DENT.
BEAR WITH IT!

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I'M SURE IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT DREAM I SAW
AS EXPECTED OF THE VICE PRESIDENT! YOU'RE AWESOME!
YOU TOO, COME LOOK ELI-RIN ♥
IT CAN'T BE HELPED...
IT'S HOW IT USUALLY IS, SO LET'S START WITHOUT SENSEI
AH...!
I BROUGHT SOME FLOWERS WITH ME TODAY.
IT'S THE BEGONIA THAT I RAISED.
THE CRIMSON COLOR IS PRETTY ISN'T IT?
!

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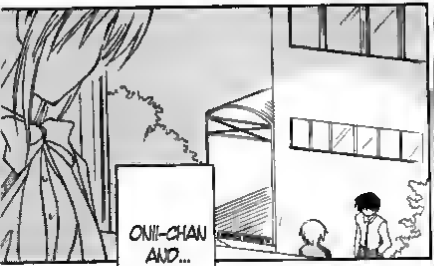

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DON'T PUT ME IN THE SAME GROUP AS YOU!
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT DO YOU WANT?
ASKING ME FOR MONEY?
. I'M SORRY FOR CALLING YOU OUT OF CLUB ACTIVITIES.
WELL...
I DON'T MIND, IT'S WHAT USUALLY HAPPENS ANYWAY
SFX ビ—ム(ASTONISHED)
IT'S NOT ABOUT THAT!
I JUST..
YOU JUST..?
. JUST WONDERING IF YOU WERE BOTHERED ABOUT THAT.
YOU KNOW, WHAT HAPPENED DURING SUMMER BREAK

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WHAT THE HECK!?
... WELL THEN, IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT I GET BACK
I WONDER WHAT I SHOULD DO...
THEY'D BEAT ME DOWN IF I GO BACK TO THE CLUB ROOM NOW.
NO OTHER CHOICE, IT'S NAP TIME
...SALARY THIEF
"HOW IT'S ALWAYS BEEN"...?
"FOR SURE THIS TIME"...?
BACK THEN DURING HIGH SCHOOL...?
THE THING THAT HAPPENED OVER SUMMER BREAK...?

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I WANT TO SMOKE WHEN I'M THINKING ABOUT THINGS ONCE IN A WHILE
MY BAD,
OH?
LIKE WHEN YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT KIRI-SAN?
E...!
OH, OR WERE YOU REMINISCING BACK?
THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED WHEN YOU FINISHED HIGH SCHOOL?
WAS IT OF THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED WHEN YOU WENT BACK DURING SUMMER BREAK, OR. .
HOWEVER .
THINGS LIKE "THAT THING" OR "DURING THAT TIME"....
. YOU WERE LISTEN-ING!?
YES, I WAS

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IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE SCHOOL DOCTOR, HE'S ON A BUSINESS TRIP TO THE SCHOOL YARD.
WHAT IS THAT?
THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE HURT AT THE BASEBALL CLUB
WHICH ONE?
THAT #1
THAT #2
dripping
BOTH OF YOU.
SORRY TO HAVE YOU TREAT ME
UMM...
FUJINAMI TOMOKO!
PLEASE TRY TO REMEMBER YOUR OWN COUSIN'S CLASSMATES.
I REMEMBER FOR THE MOST PART, BUT...
IS FUJINAMI PART OF THE INFIRMARY STAFF?
NO
I'M JUST A REGULAR HERE

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YEAH..
THAT'S RIGHT
ELIS-CHAN CAN'T STAND BLOOD?
EH?
SHE JUST FAINTED AFTER SEEING MY WOUND
WHAT HAPPENED TO HER IS EVEN LESS OF A DEAL
I SHOULD PROBABLY TELL KIRI ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED
HEY KIRI
YOU KNOW HOW ELIS'S PARENTS DIED IN AN ACCIDENT?
AND THEN YOU LEFT WITH A GRAVE EXPRESSION ON YOUR FACE
YES
YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER EVEN WENT TO YOUR HIGH SCHOOL TO TELL YOU.

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YES
IT WAS A HORRIBLE ACCIDENT
HOWEVER...
I THOUGHT IT WAS A MIRACLE THAT JUST ELIS WAS SAVED
HEY ELIS,
IT'S OUR-CHAN. RECOGNIZE ME?
ELIS?
ELIS, THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS LEFT BEHIND
WASN'T ABLE TO HEAR OR SEE ANYTHING
HER HEART WAS CLOSED TO EVERYTHING IN THIS WORLD
PLEASE SAY SOMETHING...
PLEASE SMILE FOR ME...
COME ON.
ELIS...

ELIS WAS IN A POOL OF BLOOD WHEN SHE WAS RESCUED

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ELIS DIDN'T LOSE HER CONSCIOUSNESS DURING WHEN THE ACCIDENT HAPPENED

SINCE ELIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT
I BROUGHT HER A CHEER UP PRESENT!
NO RUNNING IN THE HALLWAY!
HIRUKI-KUN!
HUH?
AWE, ARE YOU HERE ON A VISIT?

SHE HELD ON TO HER PARENTS HANDS THAT WERE STEADILY TURNING COLD

YOU'RE BORED SINCE YOU CAN'T DRESS STYLISHLY IN THE HOSPITAL, RIGHT?
ELIS!
I BROUGHT YOU A GIFT TOO, NI
SO HERE, I BROUGHT YOU YOUR FAVORITE...
RED RIBBON!

SHE WAS ALONE, IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIELD OF BLOOD IN FRONT OF HER

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HOWEVER, THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME
ELIS!?
ELIS-CHAN!?
WHAT'S WRONG, ELIS-CHAN!?
NO O OO!!
...
NOOO NOOOO NOOOOO NOOOO OO!!!!
SEIJIRO...!
ELIS-CHAN LOOKS LIKE SHE'S
THIS WAY
HIROKI-KUN!
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I FOUND OUT ABOUT THAT
THIS IS WHAT IS CALLED A PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA
THE COLOR RED PULLS A TRIGGER THAT MAKES HER ASSOCIATE IT WITH BLOOD
AND THAT MAKES HER BRING BACK THE IMAGES FROM THE ACCIDENT

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THE COLOR OF BLOOD IS RED
IT'S A COLOR THAT SHE SHARES WITH THAT ABOMINABLE MEMORY
IT WAS THE LAST SCENE...
THAT GIRL HAD WITH HER PARENTS.
THAT'S WHY EVEN NOW, ELIS KEEPS RUNNING FROM THE COLOR "RED"
...BUT WHY DID YOU TELL ME?
YES, OF COURSE!
GO PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE TOWARDS HER TOO.
SUCH A THING HAP-PENED ...?
OHHH THOOOSE THINGS EH?
WELL THERE ARE ALSO PROBLEMS THAT A GUY LIKE ME WON'T BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND...
UNDERSTOOD
click
AH, ME TOO
I'LL GO FETCH ELIS'S BAG
WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR ME TO BE GETTING BACK
YEAH...
SORRY FOR BRINGING THIS GLOOMY TOPIC UP.

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Sketch 10

EVEN IF YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN
I BOUGHT A NEW RIBBON AS AN APOLOGY.
I'M SORRY FOR JUST NOW ELIS
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL, DEEP, PROFOUND OCEAN COLOR
SOMEDAY I'LL LET YOU SEE YOU THE SAME COLOR.
I'LL SHOW YOU THE COLOR OF A REAL OCEAN.
SO PLEASE HURRY AND GET BETTER, ELIS
10 YEARS LATER
HOW ABOUT YOU TRY ON A DIFFERENT COLORED RIBBON FOR ONCE?
LIES SHOTS OF PINK
THAT'S ALRIGHT
I LOVE THIS COLOR!

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